

The regular meeting of the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden was held on September 23, 1974 in the Gild Hall with Chairman, William Press, presiding.

It was reported that Philip Cohen is undergoing a serious operation in the Temple University Hospital.

The minutes of the June Town Assembly were circulated and on motion received.

Cy Liberman presented a brief financial report because a more detailed report will be presented by the Budget Committee. There is enough money available to pay the all the taxes, but the balance is so small the Trustees can hardly function properly. There is about \$5000 in unpaid taxes and this money will be collected with interest.

Mr. Liberman reported that a William Morris night will be held on October 12, 1974 at 7:30p.m. This talk lead by William Frank and others will tell those interested what ideas of community development he contributed to the early history of Arden.

William Morley, Trustee was unable to be present at the meeting, but he sent a letter in which he set forth some of his thoughts on the problems of assessment and budgeting. He pointed out several factors: " He felt that the Assessors have prepared an accurate figure the reflects the impact of inflation on the costs of operating the town and the land values. "The Budget Committee has a difficult task when it is recognized that 75 to 85 % of our budget is for taxes over which the village has limited control. The balance of the fund is spent mostly for roads and commons. "It is vital that the village have a modest reserve fund to meet any increase in county or school taxes."

On motion, the Trustees report was accepted.

There was no report from the Auditing Committee.

~~Arden~~ <sup>motion</sup> ~~debatable~~ was made to rules and hear the Budget Committee report after the assessment matters have been considered. This motion was passed with 100 ayes and 35 nays.

The Civic Committee report was presented by Warren Hoffman. This year's major road repairs will included Cherry Lane, Inn Lane, The Sweep, parts of Miller's Road and Sherwood Road, patches Meadow Lane and the Highway and regrading at Orleans/ Harvey Road intersection. This work will cost approximately \$11,000.

Numerous elm trees on village property have died and substantial amount of money spent removing these trees. We have requested that dead elms on leaseholders properties be removed. We have received limited cooperation from the owners.

The Civic Committee presented a plan a few years ago to complete major road repairs, but because of increases in taxes a lot of this work had to be deferred. The present cost of the work is estimated to be \$26,500 for roadss and another \$11,700. for gutters. This does not include minor roads, paths or needed storm water drainage. At the current rate of road expenditures, it would take another five years to permit completion of necessary projects.

The report on motion was accepted.



Community Planning Report by Frank Akutowicz: The ARDEN BOOK is being distributed to each household in Arden. Additional copies can be purchased for \$2.00 from members of the committee and Rae Gerstine. The committee is planning to plant trees next March on the Sherwood Green and other places.

There has been a good response to the appeal for the Memorial Garden Fund. Unmarked graves will be marked and trees labeled.

The Delaware Historical Society's new headquarter at 505 N. Market was visited. Arden's records are accessible and volunteers are needed to make calendars of the papers. The Society is privately supported and Arden residents that are interested should contribute. The Committee will recommend that the Village take on an institutional membership for \$10.00 per year. The report on motion accepted.

Registration Committee reported 405 eligible voters. A get-to know your neighbor party was held at Hamburgers. Another one will be held in January before the Town Assembly. The report on motion accepted.

Safety Committee report by Thomas Colgan.

1. Met once since last Town Assembly. 2. \$56.00 in fines have been collected. 3. The green was quiet over most of the summer. Some complaints have been received about gathering of youngpeople at Cherry and Green Lanes. Residents should call the police and notify a member of the Safety Committee. 4. During the summer, the committee received complaints about unattended dogs. 5. Residents are reminded that dogs may not run loose. 6. The committee was advised of a home being robbed twice and some vandalism. 7. The committee is preparing for its annual Halloween patrol.. The report on motion was received.

Buzz Ware Village Center was cleaned and painted on the inside. The Committee reports that a lounge on the stage area is being created to be completed by Christmas. The Buzz Ware Center committee is the contact with the Monessori school and any need contact with the town committees will be made by them. The school is busy with three social science classes and two yoga classes. There will be a drop-in party on October 19 at 7:30 P. M. The report on motion received.

The Assessors had an open meeting on September 4.

No report from Harvey Road Committee or Brandywine Council of Civic Association

Shaul Gladstone reported the Annexation Committee on Ardentown and Ardencroft are compiling information and will keep in touch.

The Advisory Committee will be compiling nominations for all the standing committees in January. They are anxious to make sure all residents that wish to serve contact them.

The Arden Committee for Right Land Rent proposed that their assessment along with the assessment of the Board of Assessors approve in June be sent to referendum. In order to do this the proposed new assessments has to receive a two-thirds vote of this Town Assembly.

The suggested substitute figures are as follows:



Land Value for 1/4 acre: \$5,000.

1 Acre: \$16,000.

Capitalization rate 6.5%

Base Rated perMSq. Ft.

First 1/4 Acre 29.84

Above 1/4 Care 21.89

Surcharges for lots fronting on adjacent to forest and greens:

Arden or Sherwood Forest 8%

Village Green 5%

Sherwood Green 4%

Meadow or Communal Green 3%

The base rental for any lot containing more than one domicile in the form of income-producing separate dwellings or apartments shall be based on the 1/4 acre rate time the number of such domiciles, to the extent of the size of the lot, and at the lower rate for any remainder of the lot. Approximate total rental is: \$103,000,000 an increase of 8.8% over 1974-75 rentals, compared with a 20.2% increase reflected by the Board of Assessors report.

A motion was made and seconded to vote on this proposed alternate assessment.

There was considerable discussion concerning this proposal with some pointing out that it would curtail improvements on roads, etc. and others feeling good budgeting would take care of this. The increase in this proposal puts the burden on the small lots. People felt that land rent is getting out of hand and we need a compromise.

A committee to support the Assessors report felt that facts had been distorted. They pointed out that the Board of Assessors had used a ten year moving average of mortgage rates to formulate the rental ( or Capitalization) rate on a scientific and realistic basis, to remove it from the area of constant controversy and to give it stability .

A hand vote was called with 102 ays and 57 nays, but it was felt this was not accurate enough; therefore, a roll call vote was called for.

The results were as follows: 106 ayes

60 nays. The proposed alternate

assessment did not receive the necessary 111 votes (two-third majority) to have it voted in the referndum; therefore, the assessment of the Board of Assessors stands.

The Budget Committee present the following budget for 1975-1976.

Total income: \$119,600 Land rent 114,000. Street Aid Fund \$2,100, Interest on Reserve fund \$3,000. and other income \$500. Taxes and administrative expenses: \$86,000. Budgeted Expenses are as follows: Roads, \$16,000, Commons \$6,000. Safety Committee \$500. Salary of Assembly Secretary, \$1,150. Village Treasurers salary \$225. Special Arden Clean-up \$700. Registration Committee \$500., Rental of Gild Hall \$300., Donation to Fire Company \$200. Donation to ACRA, \$225., Buzz Ware Village Center, \$500., Contingencies \$1,500. Total Budgeted expenses are \$27,800 and balance is \$5,800.

A motion was made and passed to accept the addition of "or lower income" to item 1 in the Budget notes approved in June. This item now reads: The Budget Committee shall review actual and anticipated receipts and expenditures prior to each Town Assembly. If any single expenditure item or the total of all such items is expencted to deviate by \$1000 from the budget because of an unanticipated emergency expenditure or lower income, other items shall be revised as necessary to ensure that total expenditures



do not exceed receipts. The revised budget showing new and old figures shall be submitted in writing to the Town Assembly for approval by a two-thirds vote at a regular or special meeting.

A motion was made and passed to submit the Budget to referendum for approval.

The following residents were nominated for Assessors to be elected by referendum:

Frank Heymann	Carl VonDreele	Thomas Colgan
Reese Davis	Aaron Hamburger	Sandra Kerawalla
Jane Aughey	Shaul Gladstone	
Frank Herzog	Ted Davis	
Cheryl Jones	Alan Goldstein	
Harold Monfort	Bernard Brachman	
Morris Rosin	Marjorie Van Gulick	
Eugene Shaw	Alton Dahl	

A letter is to be sent to Richard and Connie Harada wishing them happy retirement and thanking them for all the years of service they have given to the village in the Arden Store.

A letter and gift will be sent to Philip Cohen wishing him a speedy recovery from his operation.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Morley*  
Mary Morley, Secretary